

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 AF-10 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 050077

R 210844Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1033

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USEC BRUSSELS 581

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR SW

SUBJ: KUWAITI DIPLOMAT TURNS APPRAISING EYE ON SCANDINAVIA

1. SUMMARY. KUWAITI AMBASSADOR IN LONDON, ALSO ACCREDITED TO SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, IS VISITING NORWAY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK ON MISSION OF INQUIRY ON THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD MIDEAST CONFLICT. HE TELLS MFA STATE SECRETARY ASTROM THAT SWEDEN IS NOT ON THE "ENEMIES LIST." END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CALL ON MFA STATE SECRETARY ASTROM NOVEMBER 20 ON OTHER BUSINESS, I INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WAS SUBSTANCE IN SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS FROM VIENNA TO EFFECT THAT ARAB OIL COUNTRIES WERE PLANNING TO PUT PRESSURE ON SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES WITH BLACK-
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LISTING THREAT.

3. ASTROM SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE SUBJECT, BUT IT WAS A MATTER GETTING THE CLOSEST ATTENTION IN SCANDINAVIAN CAPITALS. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE SAID, KUWAIT AMBASSADOR AL-NAKIB, RESIDENT IN LONDON BUT ACCREDITED TO NORWAY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK, IS CURRENTLY ON A MISSION OF INQUIRY IN SCANDINAVIA. AL-NAKIB WAS IN OSLO NOVEMBER 19, IN SWEDEN NOVEMBER 20 AND WILL BE IN COPENHAGEN "IN A DAY OR TWO," ASTROM SAID.

4. ASTROM SAID HE SPENT ONE HOUR WITH AL-NAKIB MORNING OF NOVEMBER 20 AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS EDELSTAM TOOK HIM TO LUNCH AND TALKED SOME MORE. ASTROM SAID AL-NAKIB WAS CLEARLY SIZING UP SWEDISH ATTITUDE TOWARD ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER TO CLASSIFY SWEDEN PRO-ARAB OR PRO-JEWISH. ASTROM SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE KUWAITI WAS ACTING ONLY ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT OR HAD A BROADER COMMISSION.

5. ASTROM SAID HE GAVE AL-NAKIB AN HISTORICAL REVIEW OF SWEDEN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE MIDEAST PROBLEM. IN SUMMARIZING THAT REVIEW, ASTROM SAID SWEDES WERE DEEPLY SYMPATHETIC TO JEWS AFTER WORLD WAR II BUT SWEDISH OPINION BECAME MORE "NUANCED" AFTER 1956. ATTACK ON EGYPT. AS FOR TODAY, ASTROM HAD SWEDES EMOTIONALLY DRAWN TO THE SUFFERING ARABS BUT FORMALLY IN THE JARRING POSTURE, I.E. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE AND RADIATING GOODWILL IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

6. ASTROM SAID AL-NAKIB VOICED AN "EXTREME" ARAB ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL AND INQUIRED SHARPLY WHETHER THERE WAS A POLITICALLY POTENT JEWISH COMMUNITY IN SWEDEN. THE KUWAITI DID NOT MENTION OIL EXCEPT AT END OF CONVERSATION WHEN HE TOLD ASTROM THAT SWEDEN WAS NOT ON THE ARABS' "ENEMIES LIST." ASTROM SAID HE WAS UNWILLING TO ASK THE KUWAITI WHAT CATEGORY SWEDEN WAS IN BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DEMEANING. "BUT I WOULD HOPE WE ARE AS WELL THOUGHT OF AS THE BRITISH AND FRENCH," HE SAID TO ME. I SAID I HAD HEARD THAT ALLAH WAS MERCIFUL.

OLSEN

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